

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 10/656,160

PATENT APPLICATION  
Atty. Docket No. A8617

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A gravity-operated separable link, comprising:

a link body having a plurality of connection ends including at least a first connection end and a second connection end; and

a strength determination element disposed within said link body and located between the first and second connection ends, said strength determination element being gravity-operated and capable of movement between at least a first and a second position of said link body, said strength determination element comprising a female member, a male member, and moveable space fillers, the moveable space fillers being capable of moving to at least a first location and a second location, wherein the first location facilitates said first position and the second location facilitates said second position; wherein

~~said strength determination element is gravity-operated and moves between at least first and second positions of said link body; and~~

~~wherein~~ when said strength determination element is in the first position, said link body possesses an energy-to-yield that is greater than the energy-to-yield of the link body when the strength determination element is in the second position.

2. (Original) The link of claim 1, wherein:

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the energy-to-yield of the first position is equal to or less than one or more lines attached to said plurality of connection ends.

3. (Original) The link of claim 1, wherein:  
said strength determination element is buoyant in a submerged situation such that a natural state of the link engages the second position.

4. (Original) The link of claim 3, wherein:  
the buoyancy of said strength determination element is such that, as the link travels between a submerged situation and a non-submerged situation, the first position is engaged.

5. (Original) The link of claim 1, wherein:  
the plurality of connection ends includes at least one swivel connection.

6 – 8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) The link of claim 1, further comprising an airtight chamber.

10. (Original) The link of claim 9, wherein the moveable space fillers are round, bearing-like members.

11. (Currently Amended) The link of claim 1, wherein the strength determination element comprises at least one of a bearing-like member, ~~a tube, a plate, and a bar.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A gravity-operated separable link, comprising:

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a plurality of connection ends included at least a first connection end and a second connection end;

strength determination means for determining the energy-to-yield of the separable link, the said strength determination means located between the first connection and second connection ends; wherein

said strength determination means comprises a female member, a male member, and moveable space means for filling a space, and is gravity-operated and moves between at least first and second positions; and wherein

the first position possesses an energy-to-yield that is greater than the energy-to-yield of the second position, and

the moveable space means is capable of moving between said first and said second positions.

13. (Original) The link of claim 12, wherein:

the energy-to-yield of the first position is equal to or less than one or more lines attached to said plurality of connection ends.

14. (Original) The link of claim 12, wherein:

said strength determination means is buoyant in a submerged situation such that a natural state of the link engages the second position.

15. (Original) The link of claim 14, wherein:

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the buoyancy of said strength determination means is such that, as the link travels between a submerged situation and a non-submerged situation, the first position is engaged.

16. (Original) The link of claim 12, wherein:

the plurality of connection ends includes at least one swivel connection.

17 – 19. (Cancelled).

20. (Original) The link of claim 12, further including an airtight chamber.

21. (Currently Amended) The link of claim ~~[[19]] 12~~, wherein the moveable space means includes at least one of ~~[[:]] a bearing-like member, a tube, a plate, and a bar.~~

22. (Original) The link of claim 1, wherein:

the energy-to-yield of the first position is equal to or more than one or more lines attached to said plurality of connection ends.

23. (Original) The link of 12, wherein:

the energy-to-yield of the first position is equal to or more than one or more lines attached to said plurality of connection ends.